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'ONLINE PHD PROGRAMMES BY EDTECH COMPANIES INVALID'

The University Grants Commission and All India Council of Technical Education advised students not to be misled by ads for such courses

VERIFY AUTHENTICITY BEFORE ENROLLING: UGC

"Students and the public, at large, are hereby advised not to be misled by advertisements for online PhD programmes offered by EdTech companies in collaboration with foreign educational institutes," it said, adding that such online programmes are not recognised by the UGC and that students must verify the authenticity of PhD programmes before taking admission

FRANCHISEE COURSES NOT PERMISSIBLE

■ This is the second warning issued against such programmes
■ Earlier this year, the UGC and the AICTE had warned varsities and institutions against offering courses in distance learning and online mode in association with ed-tech companies, saying no "franchise" agreement is permissible according to norms | P9

EdTech

CENTRE IS WORKING ON A POLICY
TO REGULATE EDTECH PLAYERS
OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY

State mulls GPS-tracking of govt doctors

KARTHIK K K & NAMRATA
SINDHWANI @ Mysuru/Bengaluru

IN a controversial move, the state government is planning to introduce a GPS-tracking system for government doctors who come under the Directorate of Medical Education in the state.

Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said the aim of the initiative is to make the doctors abide by the rules as there is an increase in the number of complaints against government doctors practising privately during duty hours.

The minister was speaking after chairing a two-day divisional-level progress review meeting of the Health and Medical Education Department in Mysuru.

"As we were receiving complaints of doctors being irregular, we decided to implement 100 per cent biometric attendance system making it compulsory for doctors to mark their attendance at three intervals. However, there is a technical glitch. We are now thinking of introducing geo-tagging facility and talks are on to enforce a total ban on private practice by government doctors," said Dr Sudhakar. **CONTINUED ON: P3**



Combo photo of differences in police uniform of various states. The PM has suggested a common national uniform | P11

PM suggests common police uniform

CHANDAN NANDY @ New Delhi

SETTING the cat among the pigeons, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged states to consider what he called the 'One Nation, One Police Uniform' policy, a potentially controversial move that is not likely to go down well with non-BJP state governments.

Addressing the Ministry of Home Affairs-led Chintan Shivir on internal security in Faridabad, Modi said, "Take your time. Take five, 50 or

even 100 years, but do give this proposal a thought. This would give a single identity to the police." Under the Constitution, police in general and law and order in particular are state subjects.

Predictably, Opposition-ruled states adversely reacted to Modi's idea with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel saying law and order is a state subject, adding that "nowadays central agencies are accompanying paramilitary forces and states' consent is not being taken".

Modi said "cooperative federalism is not only the pre-serve of the Constitution but is also the responsibility of the Centre and the states." While admitting that law and order is a state subject, Modi said that it was linked with India's unity and integrity.

In two letters — on May 2 and May 24 — to state DGPs, the National Security Council Secretariat had asked them to share information on the design and colour of uniforms and caps that the state police forces were using.

Musk 'frees' bird, gives its keepers marching orders

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

HOURS after taking control of Twitter, its new owner Elon Musk on Friday fired four top executives of the company — CEO Parag Agrawal, legal head Vijaya Gadde, chief financial officer Ned Segal and general counsel Sean Edgett. The sacked executives were reportedly "escorted out of Twitter's office". They are entitled to anything between \$100 million and \$200 million in severance, according to US media reports.

Musk, who calls himself a 'free speech absolutist', was highly critical of Twitter's management and its content moderation policies. He had called out Gadde for her role in banning former US president Donald Trump's account in January last year. Earlier in the day, Musk tweeted: "The bird is freed... let the good times roll," indicating completion of his takeover of Twitter.

The dramatic developments are in line with Musk's promise that he will change the way Twitter is run. He is expected to ease content moderation, comb out dummy accounts, and lift the ban on Trump. "Twitter will be forming a content moderation council with widely diverse viewpoints. No major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes," Musk tweeted.

The alacrity with which Musk fired the CEO shows his aggressiveness, says former Twitter India head Manish Maheshwari. "He has acquired Twitter at a high price. He would want to prove himself right and will continue to make bold moves," he added. **P13**

Govt panel to control social media content

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

SEEKING to have better control over social media content, the government on Friday notified the revised IT rules to set up appellate panels to decide removal of content on these platforms. These panels will now decide whether contentious content should stay on or be taken down from social media platforms. They will have the power to overturn content moderation decisions taken by social media platforms.

According to the notification, the government will set up one or more grievance appellate committees within the next three months. Each panel will have three members — a chairperson and two whole-time members. These panels will have to acknowledge complaints within 24 hours and resolve the matter in 15 days. The changes in IT Rules came into effect on Friday.

The panels will look at objectionable religious content, pornography, trademark infringements, fake information and any content that could be a threat to sovereignty of the nation.

There have been many instances where the government and social media companies have been at loggerheads over the content posted on these platforms. Currently, social media firms can refuse to remove flagged content if they feel it is not objectionable and doesn't violate the platform's rules. But under the new rules, they will have to follow the direction of the grievance appellate committees.



Cutouts of late actor Puneeth Rajkumar adorn Nartaki theatre during the release of 'Gandhada Gudi' in Bengaluru on Friday | NAGARAJA GADGAL

Appu's 'Gandhada Gudi' clocks 1,800 shows on Day 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH fan clubs distributing free food to thousands of movie watchers and performing milk *abhishekhas* on the cutouts of their icon, late Kannada cine star Puneeth Rajkumar's last film 'Gandhada Gudi' received a rapturous welcome from millions of his fans across the state.

'Gandhada Gudi', a docu-drama, directed by Amoghavarsha and produced by Puneeth's wife Ashwini under PRK Production banner, was released on the eve of the first death anniversary of the late actor Puneeth, 46, who died after a

cardiac arrest last year.

The Rajkumar family watched the movie at Nartaki Cinema on KG Road. While Raghavendra Rajkumar, Puneeth's brother, danced in front of the theatre, a fan rode a horse to reach Pramod theatre to watch the much-awaited movie.

Some fans watched the movie in theatres holding Karnataka flags in their hands. As many as 1,800 shows were organised by the makers of the film across the state on Day 1.

'Gandhada Gudi' ushered in a new record at the city multiplexes as well as single theatres. The 98-minute docu-drama clocked 50 shows at multiplexes between 6 am and 10 am. **P2**

CMO IN FIX OVER ALLEGED 'CASH GIFT' TO JOURNOS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ALLEGATIONS of Chief Minister's Office (CMO) 'gifting' Rs 1 lakh in cash in Deepavali gift boxes to some journalists has left the state government embarrassed and red-faced. Sources in the CMO have said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has apologised and said he was ignorant about the cash 'gifted' to journalists. He is likely to order a probe, the sources said.

Some senior journalists covering politics for media outlets have alleged that they received festival gift boxes containing sweets and dry fruits along with an envelope containing Rs 1 lakh in cash on October 22. While CMO gifting sweets and dry fruits for Deepavali is an annual affair, the alleged addition of cash was a shocker to the journalists receiving them. Some wrote to or called the CMO to take back the cash and vented their anger over being 'gifted' cash.

However, it is yet to be verified how many journalists received the envelope with the cash.

Sources in the CMO informed The New Indian Express that CM Bommai as well as many coordinating with the media were not aware of the cash in the gift boxes. "We have sent sweets in boxes to journalists and editors in many media offices, but we have no clue about cash in envelopes being put in those gift boxes," a source said.

Opposition Congress said it was a misuse of public tax money and demanded a judicial probe. "What is the source of the money? People of the state need to know how many received it and how many of them returned it?" the state Congress unit tweeted. **P5**

1.5 cr sing Kannada songs in one voice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FROM the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru and the high seas off Malpe coast in Udipi, Kannada pride reverberated across the world with about 1.5 crore people singing six classic Kannada songs, including the state anthem at the same time at 11 am (IST).

As part of the 'Koti Kantha Gayana' programme on Friday — a precursor to the Rajyotsava celebrations on November 1 — citizens, government officials, politicians, students and eminent people gathered at various places within and outside the



Fishing boats, with people singing Kannada songs, sail into the sea off the Malpe coast during the 'Koti Kantha Gayana' programme on Friday | EXPRESS

country to sing together in Kannada. Minister for Kannada and Culture V Sunil Kumar said programmes were held at 10,000 locations in 50 countries, including 27 states in India.

Adorned in state flag colours - yellow and red - they sang

songs including 'Udayavagali Namma Cheluva Kannada Naadu', 'Baarisu Kannada Dindimava', 'Hachevu Kannadada Deepa' and 'Vishwa Vinuthana Vidya Chetana', besides the state anthem. **CONTINUED ON: P4**

EXPRESS
INTAKE

BBMP chief
seeks Nov. 15
deadline to fill
potholes | P2

Siddaramiah
heads calls to
contest, to
tour Kolar | P4

India in top 30
countries with
highest TB
burden | P5

Modi is patriot,
protects Indian
interests,
says Putin | P9

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